First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

https://newheavenonearth.wordpress.com/2012/10/03/glory/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

October 11, 2015 10:00 am

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"** **33 SING** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Hunter Turner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Hunter Turner

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

Anthem **"Just a Closer Walk"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Hunter Turner

Eternal God, before whom our human systems and categories amount to nothing. We thrive in your love. Grant us teachings that will astound us, transform us, renew us and give us the courage to witness with all we have to the injustice in this world. We listen for your teaching and encouragement which will light our way to the work you have determined is ours. Amen.

– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Job 23:1-14** Hunter Turner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Hebrews 4:12-16** Carol Hall

Sermon **"Favor?"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"You Are The Seed"** **528 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

O God, you love us like a good parent,
and are present in every aspect of our existence.
May your nature become known and respected by all.
May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality
for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way.
Give us all that we really need to live every day for you.
And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures.
Keep us from doing those things which are not of you,
and cause us always to be centered on your love.
For you are the true reality in this our now, and in all our future.
In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen.

-- David Sorrill, cited on http://rainbowcathedral.wordpress.com/prayers

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Carol Hall

Thank you, God, for the wealth you have entrusted to us. As we share a portion of that wealth, we pray that it may never become the object of our affection. Keep our focus on people, relationships and lasting values these are the things that will affect our future. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Hunter Turner

We dedicate our time, money, and ourselves to the reign of God among us, praying that all whom our gifts may reach may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"** **588 NCH**

*Benediction — Carol Hall

One: The God whom we have met her is with us every day.
Be open each day to what God would say to you.

Many: With God, all things are possible.
From God, we seek to know eternal life here and now.
Amen and Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude — Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace

Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website:* *www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Oct 11th	Next Sunday: Oct 18th
Usher	Wayne Burling	Jamie Goldsmith
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Hunter Turner	Wayne Burling
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Kelsie Molter	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Margaret Harner	Carol Hall
Sunday School	Patty Sherwood	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO MEETING: November 1, 2015, immediately following the worship service, there will be a **Quarterly Meeting** of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Old business, information, reports and new business will be brought before the Congregation at that time. We will vote on accepting the following covenant of Open and Affirming.

Open and Affirming Covenant of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti. (proposed)

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.

All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.

We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held November 2, 2015 at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.
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National Coming Out Day (NCOD): An annual civil awareness day internationally observed on October 11 to recognize members of the LGBTQ+ community. The process of *coming out* involves self-disclosure of one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity. NCOD was founded in 1988 by Robert Eichberg, a psychologist from New Mexico and founder of the personal growth workshop, The Experience, and Jean O'Leary, an openly gay political leader from Los Angeles and then head of the National Gay Rights Advocates. The date of October 11 was chosen because it was the anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Initially administered from the West Hollywood offices of the National Gay Rights Advocates, eighteen states participated in the first NCOD, garnering national media coverage. In its second year NCOD headquarters moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico and participation grew to 21 states. After a media push in 1990 NCOD was observed in all 50 states and seven other countries. Participation continued to grow and in 1990 NCOD merged their efforts with the Human Rights Campaign.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is now the same as always (734) 483-3849.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights,*** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo: https://newheavenonearth.wordpress.com/2012/10/03/glory/

This picture was posted in a blog that can be subscribed to:

New Heaven on Earth!

Promoting inspired wellness of body, soul, and spirit; and NEW LIFE !!!

If you are ready to let go of the hurts, wounds and darkness from living in the world, you can receive the glory and grace of God. "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you" Isaiah 60:2. If you are willing to let go of the pain, suffering, shame, and guilt, Christ will give you his Light. "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" Ephesians 5:14.

If you are emptied, surrendered, and hungry for God, you will be filled with the glory of God! "Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God…we have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God…that the life of Jesus may also be manifested IN OUR BODIES" 2 Cor 4:6-10. Christ will become fully formed in our being.